

Remarks

Claims 1-8 were pending and examined in the Office Action that was mailed November 2, 2006. Claims 1-6 are rejected. Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating allowability of claims 7-8. Claim 7 has been amended. Each of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action is addressed below.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 is objected to because Examiner states that the last three lines seem redundant. Applicant has amended claim 7 to clarify that which Applicant claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Carter (2004/017362, September 9, 2004).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of Hilverdink (4,784,181).

Claims 1-4 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hilverdink in view of Carter.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombardi et al. (6,263,247) in view of Carter.

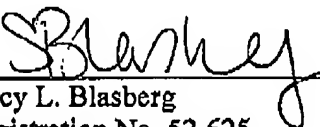
Claim 6 is rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lombardi as modified by Carter in view of Stilwell (3,247,999).

Submitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 by the inventor of the present application, Robert Lombardi. Mr. Lombardi submits that prior to March 5, 2003 (the earliest priority date of Carter), he conceived of the invention disclosed and claimed in the present application. Thereafter, and also prior to March 5, 2003, he reduced the invention to practice. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Carter is not a proper 102(e) or 103(a) reference, and requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Based on the arguments presented above, it is submitted that the pending claims, are allowable over the art of record. Applicant respectfully requests favorable action. Please charge any fees as may be required, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,


Stacy L. Blasberg
Registration No. 52,625

PATENT GROUP
CHOATE, HALL & STEWART
Two International Place
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 248-5000

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